

FBIS 14

U.S.-YEMENI DISPUTE

CAIRO DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC 0500Z 29 APR 67 M

(TEXT) AL-AHRAM'S POLITICAL EDITOR HAS LEARNED THAT THE YEMENI-U.S. CRISIS CONTINUES. THE CRISIS BROKE OUT AFTER SOME OFFICIALS OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN OPENED BAZOOKA FIRE ON A YEMENI ARMY AMMUNITION DEPOT AND FOUR AID AMERICAN EMPLOYEES WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED.

THE SITUATION DURING THE LAST FEW HOURS CAN BE SUMMED UP AS FOLLOWS:

1--THE U.S. ULTIMATUM SAID THAT UNLESS ALL THE ARRESTED AMERICANS WERE RELEASED THE UNITED STATES WOULD WITHDRAW RECOGNITION OF YEMEN. THE 24-HOUR TIME LIMIT OF THE ULTIMATUM, WHICH WAS IMMEDIATELY REJECTED BY PRESIDENT ABDALLAH AS-SALLAL, ENDED NOON YESTERDAY WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES EXECUTING IT.

IT APPEARS FROM DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON AND SANA THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO RETREAT WITH REGARD TO THE ULTIMATUM'S TIME LIMIT. AT AN INTERVIEW WITH DIPLOMATS IN SANA YESTERDAY PRESIDENT AS-SALLAL STATED THAT WHILE THE UNITED STATES WAS ACCUSTOMED TO GIVING ORDERS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA, MEANING SAUDI ARABIA, THERE WERE OTHER PARTS IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA WHERE NEITHER THE UNITED STATES NOR ANY OTHER FOREIGN POWER HAD ANY INFLUENCE.

2--THE U.S. CONSUL WAS ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE INTERROGATION OF THE FOUR ACCUSED. THE YEMENI INTERIOR MINISTER TOLD THE U.S. CONSUL HE COULD ATTEND THE INVESTIGATION BUT THAT THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO REFER THE CASE TO THE STATE SECURITY COURT, BEFORE WHICH THE ACCUSED WOULD APPEAR.

3--THE EVIDENCE FOUND IN THE AID COMPOUND REVEALS THAT IT HAD BEEN USED AS A COVER FOR THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND THAT THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS THERE ARE ALL CIA OFFICERS. THIS WAS REPORTED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES.

4--THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY TOLD AN ARAB AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON THAT IT BELIEVES IT WAS THE UAR WHICH ENCOURAGED THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT TO REFUSE TO RELEASE THE FOUR ARRESTED AMERICANS AND THAT YEMEN WOULD HAVE RELEASED THEM HAD THE UAR WISHED IT. THE ARAB AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT THE UAR WOULD INTERFERE AND BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON YEMEN ON A QUESTION CONNECTED WITH A FLAGRANT PLOT AGAINST YEMEN'S SECURITY.

5--THE U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN CAIRO YESTERDAY MET WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE UAR FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICE AND INFORMED HIM THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF DELIVERING AN ULTIMATUM, BUT THAT ALL THE UNITED STATES MEANT TO SAY WAS THAT IT WOULD RECONSIDER ITS AID PROGRAM TO YEMEN IN THE LIGHT OF THE LATEST EVENTS. THE U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HAS ALSO ASKED THE UAR FOR ASSISTANCE IN SECURING YEMEN'S PERMISSION TO EVACUATE 150 U.S. CITIZENS, PROBABLY TO ASHARA, ABOARD A CHARTERED PLANE.

29 APR 0828Z ACH/RG